[14th November 1922

Review of administration reports of district boards and municipalities.

464 *Q.*—Rao Bahadur V. Appaswami Vandayar: Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state the date and the order in which the administration reports of 1920–21 and 1921–22 of each of the district boards and municipal councils were reviewed by the Government?

A.—A statement giving the information required in regard to the administration reports of 1920–21 is placed on the table.*

Administration reports for 1921–22 were due from municipal councils by the 15th July 1922 and from district boards by the 1st August 1922. Up to the 30th October 1922 only forty-three municipal reports and nine district board reports had been received and thirty-eight municipal reports and fifteen district board reports were due. Of the forty-three municipal reports received, thirty-three have been reviewed by the Government and the reviews on twenty-one reports issued. A list of the reviews issued is placed on the table.

The Director of Office Systems.

465 *Q.*—Rao Bahadur V. Appaswami Vandayar: Will the hon. the Member for Finance be pleased to state—

(*a*) how long the Director of Office Systems has held his office;

(*b*) the names of offices he has inspected during the period and the time he took for inspecting each office;

(*c*) the offices in which he has effected retrenchment;

(*d*) the total amount of retrenchment he has effected; and

(*e*) the total expenditure incurred up to date under each of the following heads:—

(i) pay of the Director of Office Systems and his establishment separately; and

(ii) the travelling allowance drawn by that officer?

A.—(*a*) Since the 10th January 1922 except for a period of six weeks when he was on leave without allowances, but during which he carried on his work.

(*b*) The Director's attention has so far been directed mainly to the undermentioned matters:—

(i) The constitution of a central record office in the Fort for the Secretariat departments located there in place of the arrangements under which each department maintained its own records, which has been found to be unsatisfactory in working. This involved much rearrangement and sorting of records.

(ii) The establishment in the Secretariat at the Fort of a general Government reference library for all Government offices at the Presidency town, which will also be a reference library for the members of the Legislative Council. This involved the examination of the existing books in the Secretariat Library and the transfer thither of all books maintained in other offices which were not required by the heads of the

* Vide Appendix on page 615 infra.